

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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UNCLAS BEIRUT 2935

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS LE PINT

SUBJ: AMB YOUNG INTERVIEW IN "MIDDLE EAST" MAGAZINE

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE PUBLISHED STORY HEADLINED "SOUTH LEBANON: ANDREW YOUNG'S LATEST BOOBOO" ON MAY 24. IKE'S LEAD READ: "AMERICA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N., ANDREW YOUNG, HAS TOLD THE LONDON-BASED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, THE MIDDLE EAST, HE ISN'T SO SURE LEBANON OR SYRIA WANT THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON."

2. ON MAY 25 FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY L'ORIENT-LE JOUR FRONTPAGED LONDON-DATELINED AFP REPORT ON SAME INTERVIEW UNDER HEADLINE: "'LEBANESE AND SYRIANS DO NOT WANT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW'-- YOUNG." LE REVEIL OF SAME DAY ALSO FRONTPAGED AFP STORY: "U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO U.N. THROWS BOMB IN DIPLOMATIC ARENA. YOUNG: NEITHER LEBANON NOR SYRIA WISHED ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH."

3. STORY WAS CENSORED IN ARABIC PAPERS OF MAY 25. HOWEVER, LEFTIST PRO-LYBIA DAILY AS SAFIR OF MAY 26 FRONTPAGED BRIEF ITEM ATTRIBUTED TO UPI AND QUOTING "OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN" UNCLASSIFIED

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AS HAVING DESCRIBED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS AS "HEAVYHANDED INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION." TAKING EXCEPTION TO YOUNG'S "EXPRESSION OF DOUBT THAT PLO REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIANS," PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN ADDED: "THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ALONE CHOSE THEIR LEADERS AND PLO CHAIRMAN YASSIR ARAFAT WAS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY BY PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL."

4. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM IKE'S REPORT ON YOUNG INTERVIEW WITH THE MIDDLE EAST MAGAZINE. (JUNE ISSUE OF MAGAZINE NOT YET AVAILABLE ON NEWS STAND.) BEGIN EXCERPTS:

A. "WHAT MEANS DO YOU HAVE IN MIND TO BRING ABOUT TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON?

B. I THINK WE CAN GET THE ISRAELIS OUT. WE RAPIDLY MOVED IN U.N. TROOPS. BUT I AM NOT SURE LEBANON WANTS THE ISRAELIS OUT. IT IS ONE THING FOR POLITICIANS IN THE U.N. TO MAKE STATEMENTS BUT I AM NOT HEARING THOSE SAME STATEMENTS FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OR EVEN SYRIA. OFFICIALLY, SYRIA HAS NOT MADE A BIG FUSS, EVEN AT THE U.N. IF THERE IS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BEFORE ORDER IS ESTABLISHED IN THE REGION, SYRIA WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE FACTIONALISM EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY. THAT'S ONE REASON WHY U.N. TROOPS WERE MOVED IN. THE POINT OF 425 IS TO RE-ESTABLISH THE SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

C. IN OTHER WORDS, ARE YOU MAKING THE WITHDRAWAL CONDITIONAL?

D. NO, WE HAVE ALL ALONG PRESSED THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW. I DON'T KNOW IF WE NEED ALL THE U.N. TROOPS. WE DO NOT NEED A MAGINOT LINE. WE BASICALLY NEED A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE U.N. TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY THAT WAS INVADED.
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THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE U.N. ITSELF DOES NOT WANT TO BE LEFT WITH THE TOTAL BURDEN.

E. BUT SOMEHOW ONE CAN DETECT SOME CONDITIONS MUST BE MET BEFORE WITHDRAWAL IS TO BE CARRIED OUT, LIKE, "THE LEBANESE SHOULD BE READY."

F. NO, THESE CONDITIONS DO NOT COME FROM US. ALMOST EVERYTHING THAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON, IS BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, THE ISRAELIS, THE U.N. AND THE PALESTINIANS.

G. IS THIS WHY YOU ARE MAKING THE SERIOUS STATEMENT THAT IN FACT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW?

H. WELL, I AM SURE THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS DON'T WANT THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW NOW.

I. BUT THAT IS ONE FACTION, WHILE YOU ARE SPEAKING ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS?

J. YES, BUT IF THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR ALL THE CITIZENS, WILL IT BE ABLE TO SEND TROOPS TO THE CHRISTIAN

REGION? ONE HAS TO REMEMBER IN ALL FAIRNESS TO EVERYBODY CONCERNED THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF TURMOIL IN LEBANON BEFORE THE ISRAELIS GOT THERE AND SO THE PROBLEM OF LEBANON IS NOT JUST THE QUESTION OF AN ISRAELI PRESENCE. THE LATTER IS THE SIMPLEST PROBLEM. THE BIG PROBLEM WE HAVE IS RE-ESTABLISHING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON, GIVING WHAT ASSISTANCE WE CAN TO THE PEOPLE, AND RESTORING PEACE TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS NOT CONDITIONED BY ALL OF THAT.

K. ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU ARE IN FACT ACCEPTING THE PRESENCE OF THE ISRAELIS, AT LEAST IN THE SIX-MILE ZONE. WHY?

L. BECAUSE ALL OF THE OTHER PARTIES IN THE REGION ACCEPT THE ISRAELI PRESENCE, EXCEPT THE PALESTINIANS.
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M. SURELY THIS IS A DANGEROUS STATEMENT?

N. IT IS DANGEROUS BIT I THINK IT IS TRUE."
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